

“Complete the cycle”

Inhaler recovery and final elimination scheme

Launch event

- On **2 September 2013**, **GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Romania**, in partnership with **Dona Pharmacy Chain**, and with the support of the **Ministry of Environment and Climate Change** and the **Ministry of Health**, launched the first programme of collecting used respiratory inhalers directly from patients, in order to reduce the footprint generated by the landfill disposal of this type of medical waste, which can pollute the environment.
- The event was attended by **Ms. Elena Dumitru, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change**, Mr. Florin Mihaltan, Prof. Dr. and President of the Romanian Society of Pneumology, Ms. Clara Popescu, Vice-President of the College of Pharmacists.
- On this occasion, a **giant inhaler** was presented and the official **website** of the campaign was launched (www.colectaminhalatoare.ro).
- This event is the start of a pilot project in Bucharest that we plan to extend at national level after 6 months.

Project description

- For 6 months, during **September 2013 – February 2014**, patients are encouraged to bring their used inhalers to the collecting recipients placed in all Dona Pharmacies in Bucharest (over 80 locations) and the hospital within the “Marius Nasta” Institute for Pneumology.
- All types of inhalers will be collected from the Dona Pharmacies and transported to the incineration site provided by SC Mondeco SRL Suceava.
- In Romania, if every patient that bought an inhaler brought it to the collecting centres, after use, more than 11,000 tons of CO₂ would be eliminated, in a year. Within this collecting programme, patients can bring any type of used inhaler, regardless of the producing company, in order to eliminate them from nature, through an ecological incineration process.
- **The short term objective** of this project: Reducing the amount of waste generated by used inhalers. We aim to collect 5,000 inhalers used in the next six months, which means reducing greenhouse emissions by 70 tons. Through this project we want to protect the environment, inform the population about responsible waste collection and, last but not least, protect the health of the population, because living in a protected and healthy environment is a key factor in the prevention and treatment of respiratory diseases.

- **Long term objective:** Creating a sustainable partnership involving all relevant actors in the system (authorities, companies, civil society, press) to update the strategy and management plan of medical waste at the national level.